

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 589

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Barton Williams, 2003 Valedictorian of Covington High School, on his outstanding academic record and acceptance to Harvard University.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to academic excellence have distinguished themselves in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Barton Williams is one such exceptional student who was recently named the Valedictorian of the 2003 graduating class at Covington High School and has been accepted for admission to prestigious Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, through diligent study, steady composure during examinations, and steadfast commitment of time and talent, Barton Williams has achieved outstanding academic success, and has joined the ranks of the best and brightest students in Tennessee and our country; and

WHEREAS, in his remarkable high school career, Barton has earned an exemplary 4.0 grade point average and scored an impressive 35 on the ACT college entrance examination that garnered him scholarship offers from numerous prominent schools including Duke, Rhodes College, and Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, an extremely talented and well-rounded individual, Barton Williams has been involved in numerous school clubs and organizations including the Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, French Club, Knowledge Bowl, Students Against Destructive Decisions, and he has been a valuable member of the football, basketball, and tennis teams; and

WHEREAS, heavily involved in the community, Mr. Williams has helped various charitable organizations, including Tipton County Meals on Wheels and the Covington Exchange Club-Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse; and

WHEREAS, Barton's dedication to academic excellence is the very quality that helped him to become the first Covington High School graduate to be accepted for admittance by prestigious Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, the oldest institution of higher learning in America, Harvard University was founded 140 years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence and 16 years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock; and

WHEREAS, Harvard University, which counts 7 Presidents of the United States among its graduates and employs an accomplished faculty that has produced 40 Nobel laureates, will now open their doors to a Covington Charger; and

WHEREAS, as one of the 1,650 selected out of 21,000 applicants to Harvard, Barton Williams' display of intellectual aptitude and ambition surely bodes well for his future success; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams' noteworthy achievements are a tremendous source of pride for his parents, Eva Dale and John Tom Williams, his school, and his community; and

WHEREAS, Barton Williams' dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and honor Barton Williams of Covington High School

for his impressive academic achievements and on his acceptance to Harvard University. We extend to him our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.